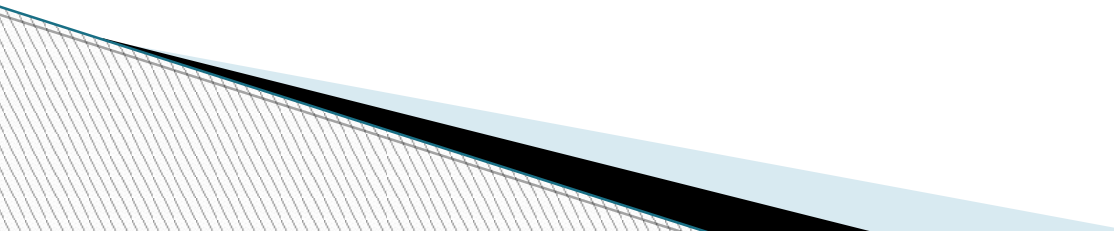


Child Protection Foundation Training

Enhanced Safety Planning Improving our Practice

Core Competencies

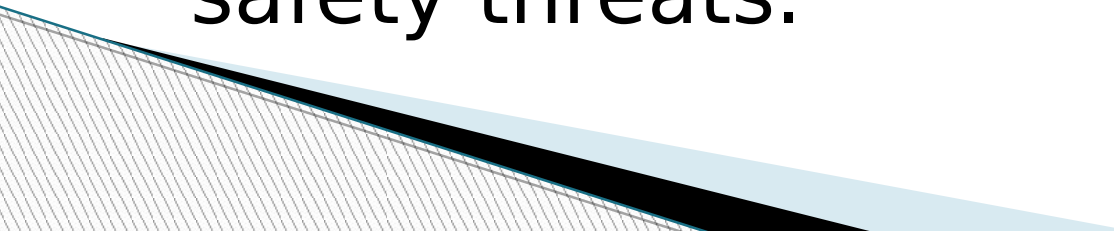
- ▶ Understand that the Safety Plan is a critical tool that primarily assures safety of children while also reducing or eliminating the trauma associated with placement.
 - ▶ Build on the knowledge that you already have and reinforces the importance of writing an effective Safety Plan.
 - ▶ Participants will be able to write a clear and effective safety plan when the CERAP has determined that children are unsafe.
- 

Safety Planning

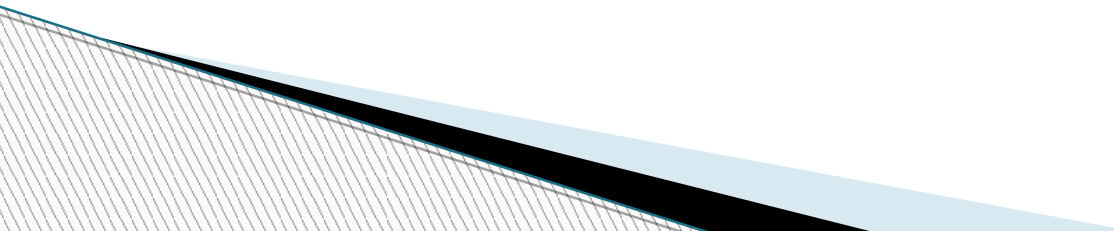
- ▶ To improve the outcomes of this training please have the following documents open or printed:
 - CFS 1441-A Safety Plan (pages 1-3)
 - CFS 1441-B Safety Plan Termination Agreement
 - CFS 1441-D Safety Plan Rights and Responsibilities for Parents and Guardians
 - CFS 1441-E Safety Plan Rights and Responsibilities for Responsible Adult Caretakers and Safety Plan Participants
 - CFS 1441-F Safety Plan Responsibilities for Investigators and Caseworkers

CFS 1441-A

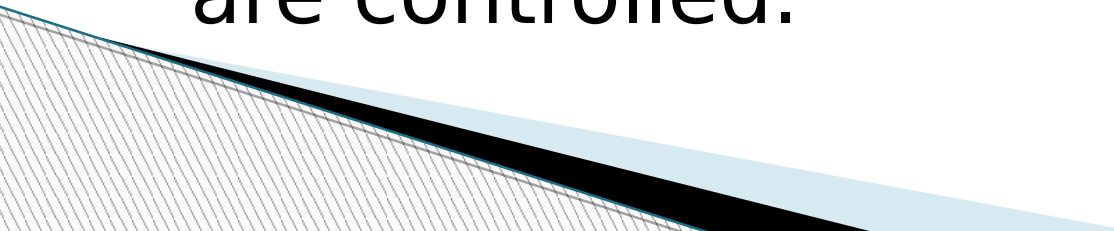
CERAP

- ▶ Safety Plans are not formulated or written until you have identified the threats as listed in the CERAP, and the child/ren are determined to be unsafe.
 - ▶ Supervisor consultation is required whenever there are unmitigated safety threats.
- 

Safety Plans:

- ▶ Are a voluntary written arrangement between the family and the agency that establishes how current/impending danger threats to a child will be managed.
 - ▶ Must be implemented and active as long as threats to child safety exist and caregiver protective capacities are insufficient to assure a child is protected.
 - ▶ **Refer to CFS 1441-F** for Responsibilities for Investigators and Caseworkers.
- 

Safety Plan - CFS 1441-A

- ▶ The purpose is to **control or manage current safety threats**.
 - ▶ Safety Plans must have an **immediate** effect on controlling the identified threats.
 - ▶ The Safety Plan is the record of how CPSW, family and other involved parties will ensure that the threats are controlled.
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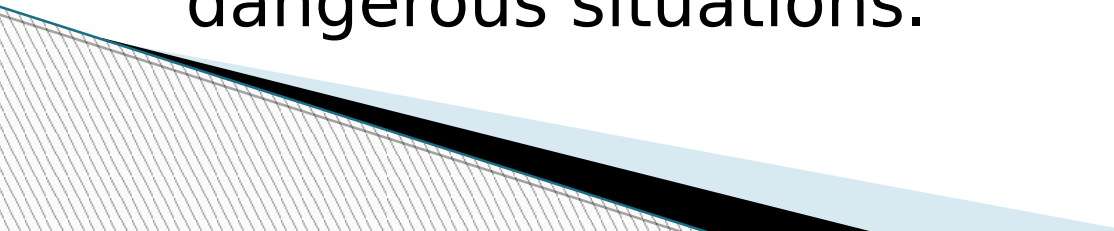
Key Considerations

- ▶ Safety planning may be an alternative to taking protective custody.
- ▶ It must control threat(s) present (behavior and/or condition) as identified in CFS 1441-A and/or supplement the protective capacities.
- ▶ There must be a 2nd/3rd objective party involved to monitor/assure plan is carried out.
EXAMPLE: Identified party – family, friend, neighbor, who was **not involved** in the incident and is willing to participate in the plan.

Key Considerations

- ▶ The Safety Plan must be continued:
- ▶ Until the child is **SAFE!**
 - This can be determined by gathering additional case specific information to corroborate/refute current information relevant to safety and the safety concerns are eliminated or mitigated.

What We Know from the Field

- ▶ Despite good intentions, observations of current practices around writing safety plans has revealed inconsistent understanding of the tool.
 - ▶ Workers continue to struggle to differentiate between safety and risk.
 - ▶ **The impact:** inadequate safety plans that do not directly address identified safety threats can create a false sense of security for staff and management, leaving children in dangerous situations.
- 

Safety vs. Risk	SAFETY	RISK
TIME	NOW OR VERY NEAR FUTURE	LONGER TERM
DEGREE OF HARM	MODERATE TO SEVERE	LOW TO SEVERE
PURPOSE OF INTERVENTION	CONTROL	RESOLVE OR REDUCE

Current Missteps In Safety Planning

- ▶ The written plans do not control the actual threats identified in the CERAP.

EXAMPLE: Threat #13: A caregiver, paramour, member of the household whose alleged or observed substance abuse may seriously affect his/her ability to supervise, protect, or care for the child.

Safety Plan Misstep: “Tim Jones (father) agrees to supervise the children when his wife is drinking.”

Safety Plan Correction: “**Tim Jones agrees to not leave Linda Jones in a sole caretaking role pending the termination of this Safety Plan.**”



Current Missteps in Safety Planning

- ▶ There is a reliance on assurances and promises from involved subjects and other parties to execute the plan without verification that they are willing and capable.

EXAMPLE: Threat #10: A caregiver, paramour or member of the household has not, will not, or is unable to provide sufficient supervision to protect a child from potentially moderate to severe harm.

Safety Plan Misstep: “Louise Day (paternal grandmother) will assure her son Ken Day (father) does not leave the children unattended or unsupervised again.”

Safety Plan Correction: “Louise Day agrees to assure that the children are supervised at all times, either in her care, or in the care of someone approved by DCFS. Louise Day agrees not to leave her son, Ken Day, in a sole caretaker capacity of Brian and Laurie Day.”

Current Missteps in Safety Planning

- ▶ The plans are often vague regarding the specific actions to be taken by involved subjects to assure the safety plan is effectively executed (“cans and cannots”)

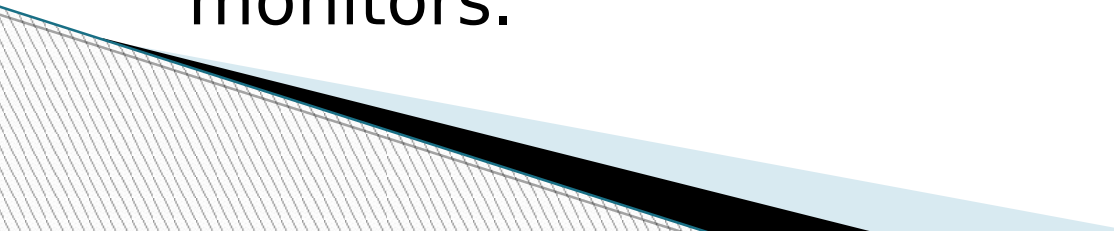
Safety Plan Language Missteps:

- ▶ Children “should” be supervised at all times.

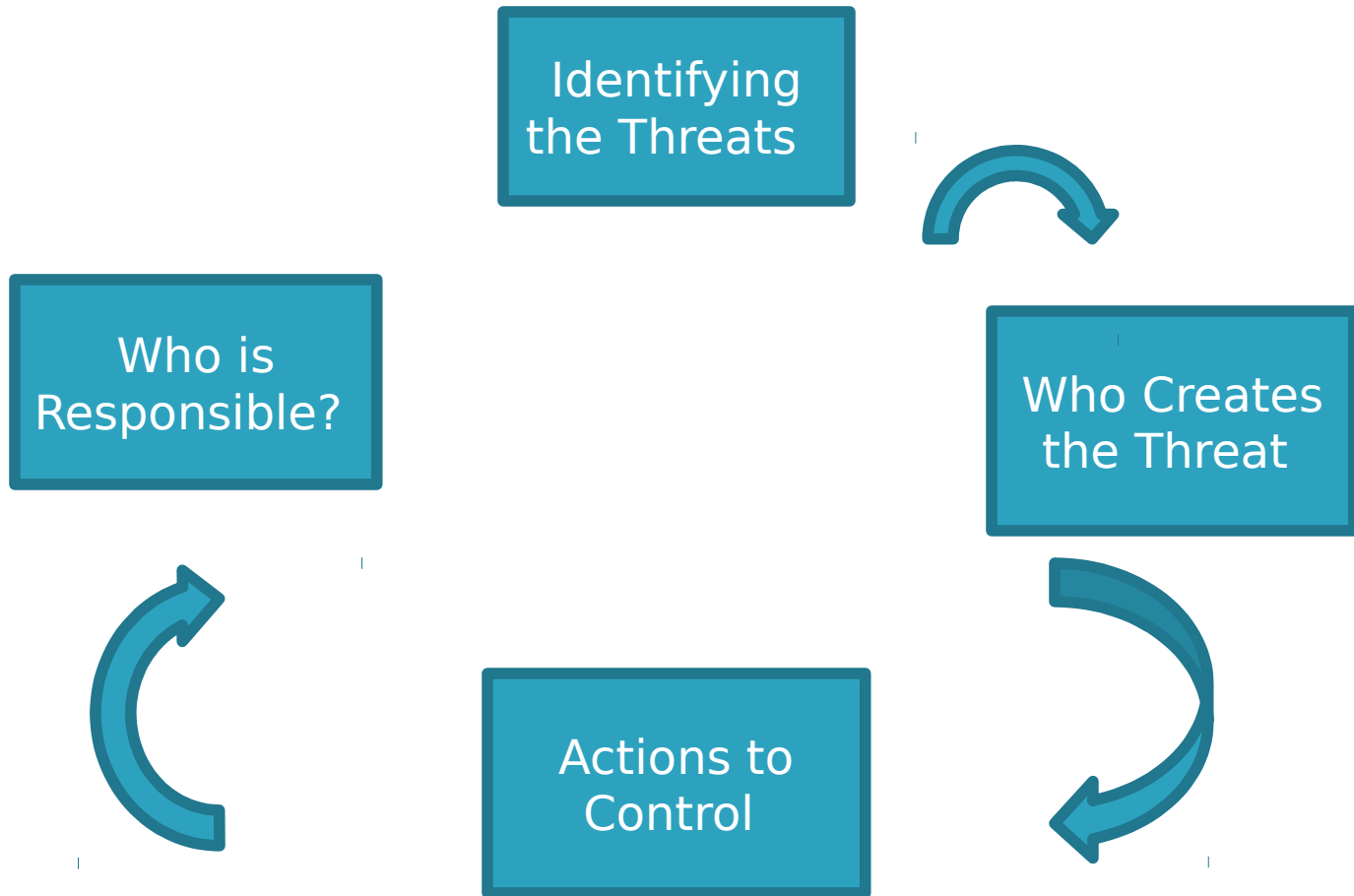
Correction:

- ▶ **Safety Plan participant “agrees” to ensure that children are supervised while Safety Plan is in effect.**
- 

Current Missteps in Safety Planning

- ▶ Words like “will” and “should” do not confirm the participant’s commitment to his or her Safety Plan responsibility.
 - ▶ When we use the word “agreed” it reinforces that the participant(s) have a ***critical*** role in keeping the children safe during the Safety Plan.
 - ▶ Keep in mind: Safety Plans by nature, are intrusive on all involved subjects, including those that have agreed to participate as monitors.
- 

Safety Plan Must Address:



Identifying the Threats

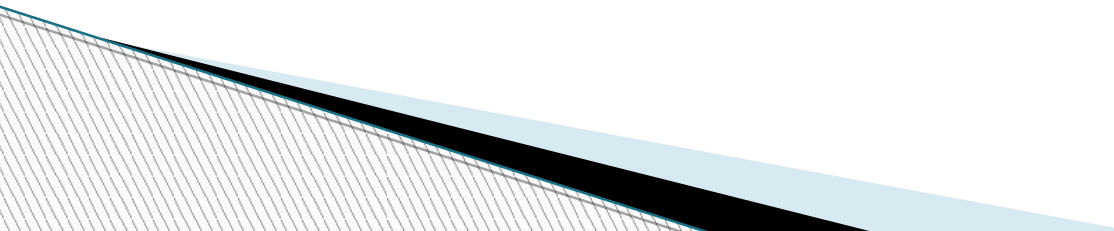
- ▶ Refer to CFS 1441-A (page 1)
 - Which threat(s) are present?
 - Threats that are present but are mitigated should be documented so it is clear why they are not included in the Safety Plan.
 - Review the threats with parent(s), caregivers, and any other identified participants involved in monitoring the Safety Plan.
 - This includes alleged perpetrators. All parties deserve to be equally informed.

REMEMBER: All parties have the right to refuse to participate in a Safety Plan. (Refer to CFS 1441 D & E)

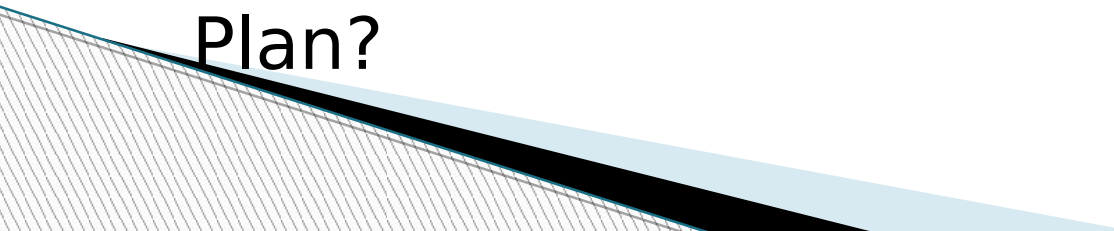
Who Creates the Threat?

- ▶ Which caregiver/alleged perpetrator is responsible for creating the threat(s)?

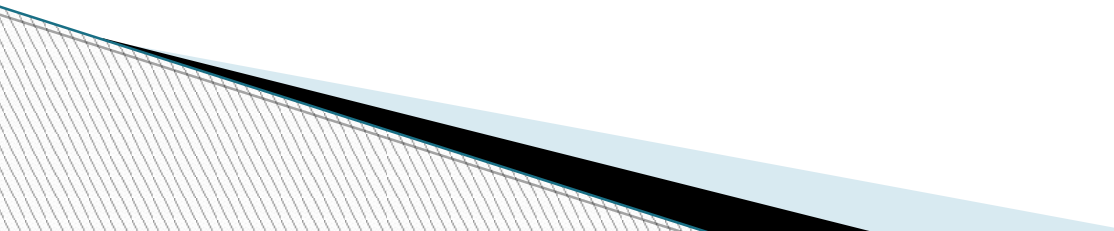
Remember: if there is more than one perpetrator, they may bring the same or different threats to involved children, depending on child's age and vulnerability.



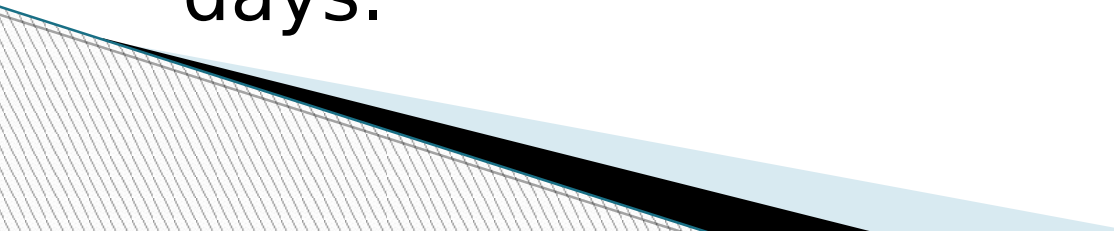
Actions to Control

- ▶ Refer to CFS 1441-A (page 2).
 - ▶ Statements in Section III #1 must address the specific actions being taken to control the threat(s).
 - ▶ Ask yourself: what is making the child unsafe? What will be done to insure that no further incidents occur? Is it a condition that presents the threat? What action will ensure that the child is not exposed to this situation pending termination of the Safety Plan?
- 

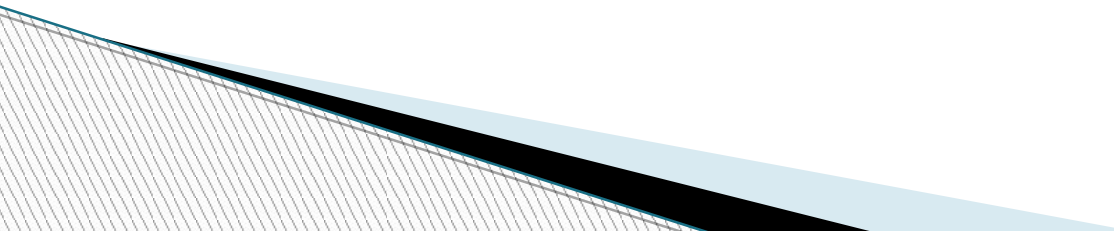
Who is Responsible?

- ▶ Refer to CFS 1441-A Section III #2:
 - ▶ Ask yourself: What are all of the parties agreeing to do in order to control the threat(s)?
 - ▶ Participants who are agreeing to monitor the Safety Plan must have explicit, concrete directions (in writing) to execute their responsibility.
 - ▶ Section III #5: This section addresses the specific person to contact if the plan is failing.
- 

Responsibility for Safety Plan

- ▶ CPS maintains responsibility and accountability for the sufficiency of the safety agreement until investigation is closed.
 - ▶ CPS is responsible for the oversight and administration of the Safety Plan and any changes and/or updates.
 - ▶ Per Appendix G, CPS must update the Safety Plan, at a minimum, every five days.
- 

Important Distinctions

- ▶ Service Plans and Safety Plans have two very different functions.
 - ▶ The Safety Plan is designed to be short-term and should stringently control the safety threat(s).
 - ▶ Service Plans are designed to resolve and reduce identified risk(s) over a longer period of time.
- 

Important Differences

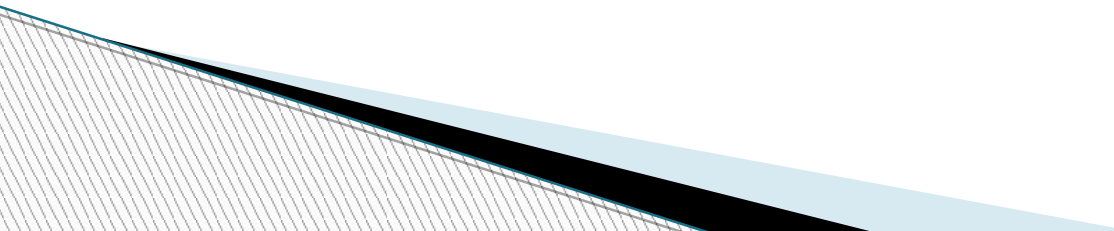
Safety Plan

- ▶ The purpose is to control safety threats
- ▶ Limited to impending danger threats
- ▶ Put in place immediately upon identifying impending danger
- ▶ Activities and services within the safety plan are concentrated & aggressively monitored
- ▶ Must have immediate effect
- ▶ The provider's role and responsibility is exact and focused on threats

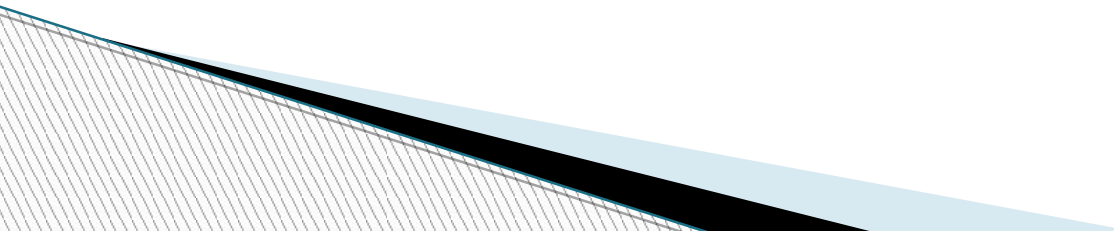
Service Plan

- ▶ The purpose is to reduce risk
- ▶ Addresses a wide range of family needs
- ▶ Are put in place following further assessment
- ▶ Generally occur intermittently over a longer period of time
- ▶ Goal is to resolve risk over a period of time
- ▶ The provider's role and responsibility varies

Be Certain “In the Moment”

- ▶ Safety plans that expect parents/alleged perpetrator to stop behavior that creates the threats i.e. quit drinking, not to hit their child, not to leave their child alone, are dangerous and in direct contradiction to the judgment that the child is unsafe in their care.
 - ▶ These plans run the risk of creating a false sense of security for CPS.
- 

“In the Moment”

- ▶ **Remember:** When writing a Safety Plan you are using the information that is available in that moment in time.
 - ▶ LEADs results, interviews with key collaterals, and further analysis of information may change an initial “Unsafe” assessment to “Safe” in a very short span of time or “Safe” to “Unsafe.”
- 

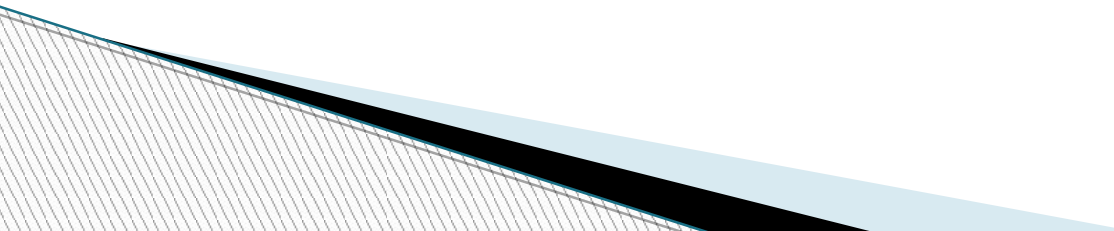
Always Consider:

- ▶ Investigators must develop Safety Plans that have specific expectations and instructions for each adult involved in the plan:
 - alleged perpetrator(s)
 - Non-offending caretakers
 - Identified family, friends, & others who agree to implement the Safety Plan
- ▶ Subjects must agree and sign the CFS 1441-A form (page 3).

Always Consider:

- ▶ A strategy for ongoing communication among all Safety Plan participants must be clearly defined to ensure that critical information is conveyed.

Remember: If second or third party participants involved in the Safety Plan can no longer participate in their agreed-upon responsibility, **they must know how to communicate this information (and to whom) in an expedient manner.** (This information must be specified on page 2 of the Safety Plan – CFS 1441-A).



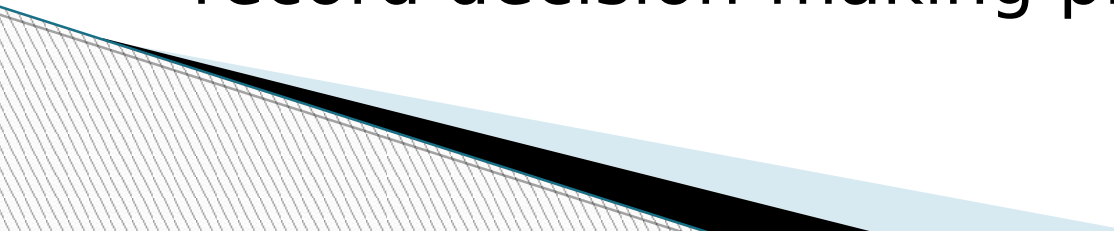
Sufficiency of a Safety Plan

REMEMBER:

- ▶ Subjects of the Safety Plan and those involved in maintaining it must accept the degree of intrusiveness of the plan and be committed to its implementation.



Termination of a Safety Plan

- ▶ The identified threats have been eliminated or mitigated.
 - ▶ Supervisor has been consulted and concurs that plan can be terminated.
 - ▶ The above is documented thoroughly in SACWIS case notes.
 - ▶ Form CFS1441B has been signed by all parties involved in the Safety Plan.
 - ▶ Complete a final CFS 1441-A CERAP to record decision-making process.
- 

Safety Plans: A Summary

- ▶ Safety Plans **must** address identified safety threats as identified in the CERAP and be time limited/specific.
- ▶ Investigators work with the families to:
 - comprehend and control the threats
 - Involve the parents and others identified to help execute a concrete and specific safety plan that controls all identified safety threats.
- ▶ The Safety Plan must be signed and distributed to all involved parties

Safety Planning Activity

